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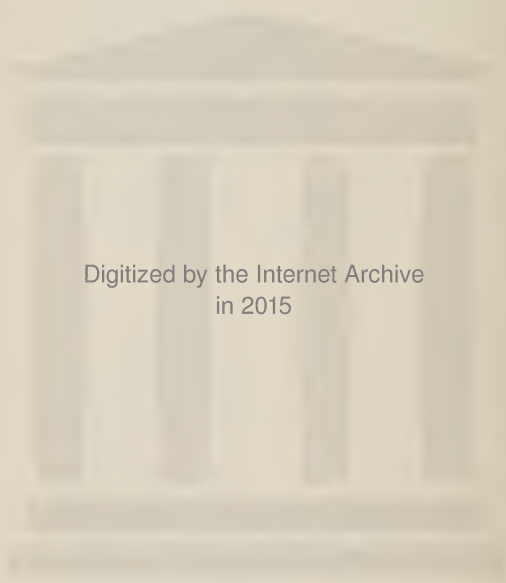
Annual Report

OF THE PHYSICIAN-IN-CHIEF

EUGENE F. DU BOIS, M.D.

FOR THE YEAR 1939

525 EAST SIXTY-EIGHTH STREET . NEW YORK, N. Y.



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1939

The medical wards have been filled practically to capacity for almost the entire year. It has been at times difficult to find beds for patients sent to the hospital by doctors and for the many patients from our own dispensary needing bed care. We make an effort to keep spare beds for serious emergencies.

Our chief difficulty has arisen in the tuberculosis division. There is a constant demand for the limited number of beds and we plan to reserve them insofar as possible for patients who need the special treatments of pneumothorax or the operation of thoracoplasty. Others are admitted presumably for a short time before they can be sent to sanatoria in the country.

A revision of procedure in our active and highly successful District Tuberculosis Clinic followed the opening of the nearby District Health Center, which has assumed a part of the work formerly taken care of in the clinic. The relationship with the Health Center has been cordial and cooperative from the start. In accordance with the original conception of the Health Center, the students from the Medical College are given an opportunity to observe and study cases in the Health Center as well as those in the tuberculosis clinic of the hospital.

During the year there has been conducted a regular pulmonary conference each Wednesday afternoon and in addition consultation rounds on the tuberculosis ward are held each Saturday morning. These exercises have been well attended and have resulted in better training of our staff and a more uniform and satisfactory treatment of our patients. During the year members of our pulmonary clinic staff have taken over the attending rounds on the Cornell assignment of the pulmonary wards at Bellevue Hospital. This means that one member of our staff is constantly in attendance on Dr. Amberson's service.

In general, the management of patients in the pavilions and the Out-Patient Department has been satisfactory. The dispensary is

now filled almost to capacity and it is doubtful if the total number of cases can be increased materially. Practically all of the space available for the medical out-patients is filled. Some of our clinics, such as allergy, arthritis, and syphilis, are over-crowded and the numbers of patients should be cut down. While there has been some increase in total visits for the entire medical out-patient division there has been a decrease in new admissions compared to last year. This is true for the entire hospital out-patient service and it is being studied by the Medical Advisory Committee of the Out-Patient Department. The work of the assistant residents as Admitting Officers and their aid in the General Medical Clinics has been invaluable, and we are considering the advisability of giving the interns the advantages of this training. The students' work in the clinics has continued to be of great value to the hospital as well as to themselves. At no time since the opening of the hospital has the work in the Out-Patient Department been as satisfactory and functioned as smoothly as during the past year. Our dispensary staff is now adequate in numbers and in professional standing, and there is no delay in securing appointments except in some of the over-crowded specialties in our own and other departments. A great deal of the slowing down in handling patients is due to the difficulty in securing appointments for x-ray and treatment and consultation in departments other than our own.

Dermatology has been greatly strengthened by the transfer to our institution of the mycology laboratory of Dr. George M. Lewis, assisted by Miss Mary Ellen Hopper. The splendid work of this laboratory at Post-Graduate Hospital has been shown in the recent publication of Dr. Lewis entitled "An Introduction to Medical Mycology." We hope to extend the study of fungus diseases from the skin to internal medicine.

During the past year the arthritis clinic has undergone several changes in policy. The first and most important of these was the requirement that no case would be admitted directly to the clinic unless referred by some outside physician. At the present time most of our material is referred from the medical clinics. In this way the total number of new cases admitted to the clinic has been considerably reduced and the staff is able to give more time and study to genuine cases of arthritis. Because of the diminished volume of material we have been able to close the two morning clinics and concentrate our energies on three afternoon clinics.

An increasing load has been put upon the hematology clinic in the form of a consultation and follow-up service for the various

divisions of the hospital. Since the advent of sulfanilamide therapy the laboratory has been called upon frequently by the private service and by many of the other services to help in the prevention of toxic actions of this drug. A Hodgkins' Disease clinic has been established and is proving to be a satisfactory element in the research studies of Dr. Forkner and Dr. Deitrick.

The syphilis clinic (Medicine L) has been very successful owing to the support that we have received from various foundations and from private sources. As this support is gradually withdrawn we shall have to call upon the hospital for financial aid. We have no hesitation in asking for such aid since the average income per patient is high enough to make this justifiable. At present the syphilis clinic is helping to diminish the deficits in other clinics. During 1939 approximately 600 cases attended the syphilis clinic each week, an increase of 16% in the total number of visits. This is largely due to an improvement in the follow-up of lapsed and probated cases. The total case load is comprised of infectious, latent, central nervous system, cardiovascular and other forms of visceral syphilis. During the past year it has been necessary to curtail the admission of out-of-district, non-infectious cases due to the fact that the present case load taxes the physical capacity of the clinic to its limit. The night clinic also operates at full capacity.

During July, for reasons of economy, the hospital incorporated the diagnostic clinic formerly located in the Kips Bay-Yorkville Health Center. The clinic material is utilized by the Department of Public Health for teaching purposes. The New York Hospital syphilis clinic continues to care for all known cases of syphilis, not under the care of a private physician, in this health district. The Bureau of Social Hygiene of the City supplies us with one public health nurse and one secretary to aid in the epidemiological work. The study of the epidemiology of infectious syphilis has continued. During 1939 there were 105 cases of infectious syphilis admitted to the New York Hospital; the source of infection was named in 64 cases, or 61%; these 105 cases named 197 persons exposed to them; 17% were found to be infected. During the present academic year an experiment is being tried whereby third year medical students carry out the epidemiological studies on the clinical cases which are assigned to them. In this way the public health and clinical aspects of the disease are correlated. As far as the experiment has gone the results are encouraging.

One of the objectives listed in the original plans for the development of the clinic was the training of younger men for

positions in syphilis control. It is of interest that the two assistant resident physicians assigned to the department since its beginning have obtained positions which promise to make them eligible for important appointments in syphilis control in the future. Dr. Erwin Peters is now a Research Fellow in the Syphilis Division of the Medical Clinic at Johns Hopkins Hospital, and Dr. Wilbur Downs has been appointed a Fellow in the International Health Division of the Rockefeller Foundation and has been assigned to experimental syphilis work at the School of Hygiene at Johns Hopkins Hospital. In addition Dr. Robert McKittrick holds a fellowship from New York Tuberculosis and Health for a study of syphilis control in New York City.

The Allergy Laboratory has now been in operation for a little over a year. Under Dr. Loveless' supervision and with two technical assistants this laboratory is making practically all the extracts for the use of both the Adult and Pediatric Allergy Clinics and supplying extracts to most of the doctors who are connected with the clinics. The extracts are eminently satisfactory and, due to better standardization and consequent better control of dosage, the therapy of our hay-fever patients last summer was the best in years. Dr. Loveless has devoted her research to the general problem of "Immunity in Hay-fever" and has produced work that is claiming the attention of allergists and immunologists all over the country.

During the year activities of the Central Laboratories were enlarged by the incorporation of the sputum laboratory and the blood bank. During 1939 an increased number of examinations were carried out and an increase of culture media and solutions issued.

Investigations of lymphogranuloma venereum of all clinical types has been continued in the clinic devoted to this disease. Special attention has been given to the use of sulfanilamide and Frei antigen for therapy. Thirty-five patients have thus far received sulfanilamide and a large proportion of them have responded unusually well. Frei antigen therapy was undoubtedly beneficial but in a smaller percentage of cases than sulfanilamide. Work on the growth of the virus on the chorio-allantoic membrane of the chick has been completed. It was found that the virus can thus be successfully cultured. The chief aim of the work carried out on pemphigus was to identify the virus which was isolated from 4 cases of the disease with pemphigus vulgaris. To this end neutralization tests were performed with the laboratory strain of virus

and blood sera taken from cases of the disease. The blood sera of 8 of 14 cases investigated caused partial but definite neutralization. No neutralization occurred with sera from 12 normal persons. The development of neutralizing antibodies in and their disappearance from the blood serum of an individual with pemphigus vulgaris was also investigated. The results of this experiment showed that neutralizing antibodies are best demonstrated when the patient is in a state of remission and that they disappear when relapse occurs. A very small percentage of animals showed signs of disease following intradermal inoculation but the virus did not infect mice when it was introduced subcutaneously, intraperitoneally, or intranasally.

The Case Finding Program for the detection of early pulmonary tuberculosis in medical students, student and graduate nurses, and house officers has disclosed that about eight per cent of the graduate nurses examined routinely have had significant pulmonary tuberculosis. Many of these had their disease before their initial examination here. A few instances of widespread open pulmonary tuberculosis have at times gone unrecognized in some of the services of the hospital and these cases are a potential danger. Yearly routine roentgenograms of the chest are being made and the findings are being checked and correlated. A review of the results of the case finding methods employed in the hospital and medical school in the period between September 1932 and July 1939 is being prepared in collaboration with Dr. Richard G. Hahn and Dr. Jules Freund. Tuberculin testing of the entering medical and nursing students and retesting at six-month intervals of the negative reactors is being continued.

Knowing the financial needs of the hospital our staff is endeavoring to diminish the deficit in every way possible. We do not, however, possess exact figures regarding the relative costs of patients in different departments of the hospital. We do not know the average cost of a medical bed as compared with a surgical or pediatric bed. We do not know the average income from the medical patients. It is suggested that such a survey should be made to determine the most advantageous distribution of beds. Compared with other hospitals of the same size our institution has a relatively small number of medical beds. There would be no difficulty in filling fifty per cent more than are now available.

As emphasized in our previous report the greatest need is for more neurological beds. It is quite evident that the donor of our new building was greatly interested in this field since in his will

he specifically mentioned neurology before psychiatry. The facilities provided by the hospital authorities are as yet rather meagre. The medical department, however, has tried to do its part and has developed a strong nucleus of neurologists who have accomplished with limited material some of the best research performed in our country in the last decade. At present the neurological cases form a small percentage in a small medical service. We need at least sixteen more medical beds devoted specifically to neurology.

As our sub-department of neurology has developed it has shown itself to be an indispensable ally of the Departments of Psychiatry, Surgery, Pediatrics, and Physiology as well as Medicine. No other group has done more to bind together the different departments of our hospital.

The question comes up as to whether the department of neurology has not reached the stage where it could be developed either into a full department or a sub-department with an independent budget and independent listing in the catalogue. This would stimulate the development of neurology in this country and bring our institution more in line with other large teaching institutions. Such a development would probably induce the foundations interested in this field to increase their support of our work. It would be necessary, however, to continue the close association with general medicine and psychiatry since these strong associations in the New York Hospital have been of great help to all concerned.

The division of cardiology under Dr. Harold J. Stewart has been particularly active in research and I am glad to report that Dr. Willis F. Evans, who was given a fellowship under the Special Fund for Research, has been doing some important work on the cutaneous blood flow and has continued the studies begun in 1938 with the application of the radiometer to the study of cardiovascular diseases and actions of drugs. The number of electrocardiography records has increased 17 per cent for the year 1939 over the number in 1938; there has been an increase of approximately the same amount every year over the previous year.

The division of metabolism has been continuing its fundamental studies on the mechanism of oxidation of carbohydrates and also its work on the endocrines which has not only theoretical but also practical importance. New classification of the amenorrheas has been made on the basis of the vaginal smear. In collaboration with Psychiatry studies on the relation of ovarian insufficiency

to post-menopausal psychoses have permitted us to conclude that the ovarian insufficiency of the post-menopausal state had no specific relation to the development of the psychoses of this age period. Analysis was made of patients under estrogenic therapy in the Endocrine Clinic during the past seven years to ascertain the possible relation of this form of therapy to neocarcinogenesis. The result of this analysis offered no support for the view that when properly used estrogenic therapy carried with it the dangers of neocarcinogenesis. As in previous years we have had great help from the affiliation with the Russell Sage Institute of Pathology, and the members of its staff have not only investigated many problems of their own but have also collaborated in many problems with members of the Departments of Medicine, Physiology, Pediatrics, and Psychiatry.

During the past year the research work of the Department of Medicine has been voluminous and we believe of a higher order than ever before. The teaching of students has improved steadily. We have been able to continue a most satisfactory program of training of interns and residents. We have also continued our formal and informal methods of training the men who work in our medical out-patient department. When we group together the interns, residents, and out-patient staff we have a mass of post-graduate students equal in number and importance to the under-graduates. For several years we have been building up a program of post-graduate education in the form of regular weekly conferences on various aspects of medicine and on diagnostic problems. These conferences have been satisfactorily attended. They are supplemented by the monthly out-patient dinners at which Dr. Guion has arranged to have outside speakers present problems of current importance.

Fortunately we have been able to secure a large number of research grants from foundations and other sources. These grants require much supervision but on account of our restricted budget we are dependent on them for our research. Since most of the grants are for limited terms of years serious problems arise as each grant terminates. The following studies were carried out with grants made available for 1939.

Family Study and Public Health

Josiah Macy Jr. Foundation

Hematology Fund

Anonymous

Allergy Research	Anonymous Ettinger Fund (Cornell Medical College) Special Fund for Research (Cornell Medical College)
Tuberculosis and Arthritis	Bourne Fund
Syphilis Studies	Milbank Memorial Fund Ostro Research Laboratories Board of Health Special Fund for Research (Cornell Medical College)
Tissue Respiration Studies	Eli Lilly Company
Studies in Menstruation	Josiah Macy Jr. Foundation E. R. Squibb and Sons Special Fund for Research (Cornell Medical College)
Carbohydrate Metabolism Tissue Study	National Research Council Anonymous
Lipase Activity of Normal and Multiple Sclerosis Serum	Child Neurology Research Friedsam Foundation
Affective States and Bodily Changes	Josiah Macy Jr. Foundation
Poliomyelitis	National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis
Lymphogranuloma Venereum	United States Public Health Service
Frei Antigen Studies	Lederle Laboratories, Inc.
Pemphigus Studies	Markle Foundation
Endocrine Studies (Dr. Richardson)	Special Fund for Research (Cornell Medical College)
Diabetes Research (Dr. Tolstoi)	Special Fund for Research (Cornell Medical College)
Electroencephalography	Special Fund for Research (Cornell Medical College)
Research in Cardiology	Special Fund for Research (Cornell Medical College)

The Special Fund for Research has also supported work carried on in Central Laboratories in connection with the blood bank.

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